

Fears Cut May Affect Arsenal

Fear that congressional paring of this year's war department budget may be reflected in an allotment of funds too low to maintain the Joliet arsenal at the preparedness level necessary for national security was expressed yesterday by Col. Carroll Hudson, commander of the arsenal.

Speaking before the Rotary club of Joliet at that group's noon meeting in Hotel Louis Joliet, Col. Hudson explained that one of the purposes of the arsenal is to maintain explosive production and shell and bomb-loading facilities at a point where they can be put into use within 120 days after declaration of a state of emergency.

"The ordnance department asked \$750,000,000 in this year's budget to carry out properly the missions with which it is charged," Col. Hudson declared. "This figure already has been cut to \$275,000,000, and congress may make further cuts."

THIS WILL not leave us very much money for the preventive maintenance of the Joliet arsenal and other wartime ammunition plants that would keep us in a position to go into a national emergency ready to commence firing," the arsenal commander declared.

Joliet arsenal, Col. Hudson explained, is one of several wartime ammunition plants thruout the nation which were designated to be kept up on a "stand-by" basis. This stand-by status requires the plants to be kept in condition to start production of ammunition within 120 days, and to gain full production within six months, after declaration of a national emergency.

Other peacetime missions of the arsenal, which includes the two wartime plants known as the Kankakee Ordnance works and the Elwood Ordnance plant, were explained by Col. Hudson as being:

1.—**STORAGE** of ammunition shipped in from de-activated war munitions plants.

2.—Helping war contractors on portal-to-portal pay claims by wartime employes—claims that eventually would come out of the government treasury and the taxpayer's pockets.

3.—Disposal of steel cartridge cases, excess vehicles, and other materiel (spelled with an E not

an A in this sense) which has been declared surplus.

4.—Demilitarization of ammunition not suitable for storage, salvaging the salvagable parts and destroying the rest.

5.—**STORING** machine tools that the government is holding as a backlog to speed the war machine into production if an emergency arises.

The office of the field director of ammunition plants, under separate command, is located at the arsenal, Col. Hudson said, but is superior to the arsenal in chain of command, directing the arsenal and other government arsenals being maintained on a stand-by basis.

Nearly all possible land utilized during wartime production operations as "safety" areas has been rented out for crop farming. An area west of route 66 may be turned over later this year to the department of the interior, which plans to turn the area over to the Illinois department of conservation for state conservation activities, Col. Hudson said.